

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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Chicago Southside Union Tent Revival Campaign

Speaker: Dr. John R. Rice — Time: August 9 to September 6 — Place: Corner 73rd Street and Wabash Avenue — 14 Churches Cooperating — Tent Seating 1800, Size 80 x 160 Feet — Singer: Al Smith

BY REV. FRED S. BECK, Chairman

The following churches will unite in a tent campaign, August 9th to and including September 6th with Dr. John R. Rice of Wheaton, Illinois, as the evangelist:

Grace M. E. Church of Auburn Park, A. E. Hagberg, Pastor. Bethany Covenant Mission Church, Paul Fryling, Pastor. Emerald Avenue Baptist Church, Carl Olsson, Pastor.

Englewood Mission Church, Herbert Palmquist, Pastor. Elim Evangelical Free Church, Fred Beck, Pastor.

Elim Baptist Church, Edwin Bonander, Pastor. Grand Crossing Mission Church, C. E. Peterson, Pastor.

Ogden Park Covenant Mission Church, Gust Ordell, Chmn. Oakdale Mission Church, Carl Bolin, Pastor.

South Shore Baptist Church, K. A. Piercy, Pastor.

South Shore M. E. Church, C. F. Carlson, Pastor.

Grace Baptist Church, John A. Swanson, Pastor.

Tabernacle Mission Church, Ernest Larson, Pastor.

Union Avenue Community Church, Oliver Peterson, Pastor.

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The tent will be pitched at the



REV. FRED S. BECK
Chairman, Chicago Southside Tent Committee

Revival Number

This is a revival number of *The Sword of the Lord*. Dr. Wells announces that the editor will be in revival services with the Galilean Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, at Tenth and Story Streets in open air beside the church building, July 21-Aug. 7. Rev. Fred Beck, Chairman of the Chicago Tent Campaign Committee, announces the big tent campaign on the South side of Chicago August 9 to September 7.

Since this issue will fall into the hands of thousands who are invited to attend these meetings, we publish the sermon by the editor, "What Shall I Do Then with Jesus?" and with the announcements fill up the paper without the usual sermons by a great soul winner or Bible teacher not officially connected with *The Sword of the Lord*.

Usually there are two full length sermons, often three, one by the editor, one or two by some of the greatest soul-winners of America. We have on hand sermons ready to print, by Dr. H. A. Ironsides, another by Evangelist Hyman Apelman, several by Rev. Charles E. Fuller of the Old-Fashioned Revival.

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10th Anniversary Campaign of Galilean Baptist Church, Dallas

JULY 21st THROUGH AUGUST 7th

BY DR. ROBERT J. WELLS
Pastor, Galilean Baptist Church; President, Dallas Bible Institute, Dallas, Texas

Ten years ago, under the direction of the Lord, Dr. John R. Rice, Editor of *The Sword of the Lord*, came to the city of Dallas for the purpose of selecting a location on which to conduct a revival meeting. After searching for more than one month, the Lord directed him to a vacant lot on the corner of Tenth and Crawford Streets, which is one block from the present location of the Galilean Baptist Church.

Through the newspaper, radio, and printed handbills, it was announced meetings would begin July 12th, 1932. Although the site had been chosen and announcements of the meetings had been made, there were no seats and practically no money on hand. Deposit had to be made for the electric lights and



DR. ROBERT J. WELLS

arrangements had to be made for seats. This matter was taken to the Lord in prayer and a call was sent out to all those who were interested, to come to the lot and construct seats. About fourteen dollars were received through the announcement with which a small load of lumber was purchased and the volunteer laborers began the construction of the seats. Before this work was completed, the Lord sent in more money and the work progressed so that everything was ready in time for the meeting.

What a meeting it was! People were saved every evening. The crowds became larger and larger until the lot was entirely filled. God continued to bless and literally hundreds of people were saved during the duration of the revival. After continuing more than three months, on the closing night, thirty-five came forward to make decision for Christ, and in that same evening, nineteen joined the church.

On July 31st, three weeks after the meeting began, a group of people whose hearts had been touched by God, were banded together to form a local New Testament Church, with Dr. Rice as pastor. Within twenty months of almost continuous revivals, the membership increased to 900. There were 3,000 conversions. A new building with a seating capacity of 1,600 had been built, paid for in cash, and located on the corner of Tenth and Story, one block from the lot where the first revival was held.

How mighty God had wrought! Under the leadership of their consecrated pastor, who was more than a pastor; spending much time in evangelistic meetings both in and out of the city; preaching over the radio; editing *The Sword of the Lord*; as well as writing books and booklets, the circulation of which now runs into many hundreds of thousands; the church continued to increase until the mem-

(Continued on page four)



release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

"For he knew that for envy they had delivered him."

"When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."

"But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus."

"The governor answered and said unto them, 'Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.'

"Pilate saith unto them, 'What shall I do then with Jesus, which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.'

"And the governor said, 'Why, what evil hath he done? But

they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.'

"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it."

"Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."

"Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."

Matthew 27:11-26

1. The Question Analyzed

Since every man, woman, and child living faces this question, let us carefully analyze it.

First, it is a personal question. "What shall I do?" I must do something about this, myself.

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'What Shall I Do Then with Jesus?'

(Continued from page one)

In a barber chair in Decatur, Texas, some years ago a man said to the barber: "Do you know what I am counting on to get me to heaven?" When the barber answered no, he continued, "I am counting on the prayers of my mother. I know that she has been praying for me over thirty years. I believe her prayers will be answered, so I don't worry about it." I sat in the adjoining barber's chair. How I wish now that I had boldly told him that every man must settle this question for himself.

Dr. L. R. Scarborough, in one of his books, tells of being called to face a dying man to whom he had spoken many times about his soul. This dying man turned to his wife and said something like this: "Wife, you've done the church-going, you've done the praying. In a little bit I'm going out to meet God. You have done the rest of it; can you face God for me?" The weeping wife nodded to Dr. Scarborough to answer, and he said to the poor lost man, "No, old man nobody can answer to God for you. You must yourself take Christ as your Saviour or be lost forever." Every person who has come to the age of accountability must for himself or for herself, accept or reject Jesus Christ. This is a personal question.

Second, the question requires action. Pilate said, "What shall I do then with Jesus?" Pilate recognized that he had to act.

And so, dear lost man, you yourself must act on this question. You must do something with Jesus.

I do not mean that one can be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, by observing the golden rule, by paying honest debts, or by being good to his family. I do not mean that one can be saved by baptism, or confirmation, or by the Lord's Supper, or by church membership. No, no! But I do say that every poor sinner must have an act of the will, must accept or reject Jesus Christ. You must do something about this question. You WILL do something about this question.

Lost sinner, it is your move. God did not sin against you, but you have sinned against God. God does not owe you an apology, but you owe God an apology. Christ has already done His part, and now it is time for you to do your part, if you would ever be saved. And the part you ought to do is a definite transaction, a definite action of your heart and mind and will, turning from sin to trust Christ, to accept Him as your Saviour, to love Him, to claim Him, to confess Him.

Third, this question is a question about Jesus Christ and about nothing else and nobody else under Heaven. I am not asking you what you will do about the church, about baptism, about preachers. I am not asking you what creed you will accept, what denomination you will follow, what church you will join. I am asking you the simple question, what you will do with Jesus. And I pray that you will ask yourself the same question, and that God will press it on your heart until you face it and settle it right. "What shall I do then with JESUS?"

You say there are hypocrites in the churches, and you have no confidence in them. Well, there was a hypocrite among the first twelve apostles and it would not be surprising if there were hypocrites in the church today. I think there are. Churches are made up of human beings. But your salvation is not settled by the churches, it is settled by what you answer to this question, "What shall I do then with Jesus?" I am for the church-

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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es. Jesus Christ Himself gave orders to start the churches. If you don't like it, tell Him. Churches are not all they ought to be, but still the best people on top side of the earth are in the churches. The gospel of Jesus Christ comes thru the churches. It is church people who spread Bibles, send missionaries, preach the gospel. But fortunately, you do not have to settle all that is wrong with the churches. You simply have to say yes or no to Jesus Christ!

Perhaps you are one of those who hate preachers, who say they are all after money. Well, no doubt a few are money-minded, as were Judas Iscariot and Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, and false prophets in the Bible. But fortunately, you do not have to accept or reject preachers. That is not your problem. You must do something with Jesus Christ or go to Hell forever!

Christianity is not a creed; it is not a way of life; it is not a doctrine; it is not an organization. Christianity is a Person and that Person is Jesus Christ. If you accept Him, trust Him, receive Him as your own Saviour in penitent faith, then you are saved, born again, God's own child and assured of forgiveness and Heaven. If you reject Him, you are then condemned already, without hope and without God in the world! You must do something with Jesus.

II. The Inescapable Question You Cannot Dodge

How fearful the dilemma must have seemed to Pilate! He held the governorship of the province of Judea under the Roman Empire. It was always a difficult task to control the turbulent, freedom-loving Jews. Then there were constant clashes between the high priests and the Sanhedrin, long accustomed to ruling in all religious details, with the civil government under Pilate. If Pilate should release Jesus when the angry Jews had determined to have him killed, he would have the undying hate of these religious leaders, who were bitterly jealous of their rights to decide religious questions, and who were fanatically followed by the people. No doubt these Jewish leaders would appeal to Rome, and they could make a strong case.

John 19:12 says, "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: who-soever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar." How would Caesar at Rome take it, if it were reported to him by these trouble-makers, that Pilate was secretly supporting a man who was born to be king of the Jews and planned to rule the world? And these Jews accused Jesus, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He himself is Christ, a king" (Luke 23:2). How would it look to the world Emperor at Rome if it were told to him that Pilate were sympathizing with Jesus, and that Jesus was trying to get people to quit paying taxes? And besides, in the eyes of Caesar at Rome, the enormous following of Jesus, multitudes that no man could count sometimes coming to hear Him preach, necessarily marked Jesus as a dangerous man. So if Pilate released Jesus, he would have to face the outraged opposition of the Jewish priests, the Sanhedrin of seventy elders, and the fanatical opposition of the mob. And then he might well lose his job over the whole business and perhaps his head! It would be dangerous to turn Jesus loose, unless he could get the consent of these rabid leaders.

On the other hand, Pilate was thoroughly convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, that He was wholly innocent of the charges the Jewish leaders brought against Him. In Luke 23:3, 4 we are told, "Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the king of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man." Again, Matthew 27:18 tells us that Pilate "knew that for envy they had delivered him." Pilate had been indignant when Jesus refused to answer him, and said, "Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not

that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" But we are told that Jesus answered, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above; therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath a greater sin" (John 19:11, 12). From that moment Pilate determined to release Him, and tried to do it. We must not forget that over the head of Jesus on the cross Pilate put the title, in Hebrew and Latin and Greek, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews." And when Pharisees insisted that He was not king of the Jews but only claimed to be, Pilate said sternly, "What I have written I have written" and refused to change it. Pilate was thoroughly convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, that He was innocent, not guilty. He plainly said, "I find no cause of death in him" (Luke 23:2).

So Pilate must have been in an agony of indecision. He knew he ought to release Jesus; and to take sides against Jesus, not to trust Him, not to surrender to Him, might damn his soul forever. And he felt on the other hand that if he should deliver Jesus from death it might cost him his job, his friends, his income, his honor as governor of Judaea under the Roman Emperor.

And while the burden of the decision was upon Pilate, there came word from his wife. Pilate had been aroused early to come to the judgment seat in the wee hours of the morning to act upon the demand of the Jewish Sanhedrin that Jesus be crucified. Pilate's wife had evidently tried to sleep again, and troubled and distraught, she sent Pilate word, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him" (Matthew 27:19). Oh, if Pilate had only listened to his wife! But he did not.

Pilate tried to avoid decision on the matter. He wanted the decision about Jesus taken out of his hands. He tried to dodge the responsibility, but he could not. For "What shall I do then with Jesus?" is the unavoidable question, the one you can't dodge, can't be neutral about. You cannot fail to take sides. You must do something about Jesus!

First, Pilate tried to evade the responsibility by sending Jesus to Herod. Herod was the tetrarch of Galilee, a province to the north. Jesus had lived in Galilee, and Pilate seized that pretext to send Jesus before Herod, who it happened, was visiting in Jerusalem that day. The story is told in Luke 23:6-12.

"When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

Pilate was willing to make friends with his enemy, Herod, to get Christ off his hands, to avoid that fateful question, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" But Herod, after making fun of Christ and mocking him, sent him again to Pilate, and Pilate again had Christ on his hands. PILATE HAD TO DECIDE FOR HIMSELF. He could not dodge the issue, and neither can you. Every man and woman and child must say yes or no to Christ for himself.

A second time Pilate tried to avoid the decision about Christ. It was the custom at every passover season to release to the Jews one prisoner, whomever the people should desire. So Pilate had a crafty thought. He selected the wickedest man in jail, a murderer, Barabbas. Possibly his crimes had aroused great public indignation. Certainly he was a notorious criminal. Pilate evidently reasoned that, though the chief priests wanted Je-

sus killed, the mass of the people had rather have Jesus pardoned and released to them than to have Barabbas, the murderer, turned loose. Perhaps the people, who had seen Christ's miracles, who followed him gladly and heard his preaching and ate the loaves and fishes which he multiplied — perhaps the people would by popular clamor overrule the proud Pharisees, and Jesus could be released without any blame to Pilate. So Pilate said, "Whether of the twain shall I release unto you?" To his shocked surprise, the people all cried back, "Barabbas! Barabbas!" for the chief priests had gone among the people and urged them to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. It was then that he made his appeal to the people, saying, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" And the people demanded that Christ should be killed.

Pilate could not avoid the issue. He must decide it! So he called for a basin of water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it." Pilate washed his hands; but does any sensible person believe that he thereby avoided any responsibility for the death of Jesus? When he had Jesus bound to a marble pillar, where He was scourged with a Roman cat-o'-nine-tails, when he allowed the people to spit in Jesus' face, when Christ was blindfolded and his beard plucked out, a crown of thorns pressed upon his brow, and then when, stumbling, he was forced to carry his cross until he fainted, and then beaten, bruised, bleeding he was driven along the Via Dolorosa, the way of sorrows — does anybody believe that Pilate was blameless? Does anybody believe that Pilate didn't really choose? Did Pilate escape this question? He did not, and neither can you!

Pilate soon lost his great position after all. Soon there was a rebellion in Samaria. Pilate had much blood-shed putting it down, and he was called to Rome to explain. Before he arrived at Rome the emperor was dead, and the new emperor appointed his own friend to govern Judea. Pilate retired to what is now Switzerland, and Mount Pilatus there is named for him. And it is said that in the cool waters of Lake Geneva on moonlit nights two hands may be seen to rise from the lake, washing, washing — but never clean! The legend, the tradition is that Pilate never forgets, that his conscience always burns, that he is forever anxious to wash away the stain, but cannot! Pontius Pilate delivered Christ to be crucified. Of course, that is only a legend, but it is really true that Pilate saved his job, but only temporarily, at the loss of his soul. He did do something with Jesus. He did do the wrong thing. He rejected Christ and lost his poor immortal soul.

Pilate could not escape that question, and neither can you. What will you do with Jesus?

There are several reasons why no man can dodge this issue. The inescapable Christ must be dealt with. You must be for him or against him, love him or hate him, accept him or reject him. You must crown him or crucify him.

First, because Christ is the Creator. Other men are only men. You may love them, hate them, ignore them — they are only men. You may scoff at this humble preacher who pleads with you on the printed page. You may never see my face. You owe me nothing. I did not make you, I do not keep you, I will not judge you, I cannot save you. I am a man. Christ is the Creator. He made you, formed you in the womb. "All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made," we are told in John 1:3. Christ is different. You must face Him.

Christ not only created you, but sustains you. Every breath you draw, He gives it. Every beat of the heart you have by the mercy of Christ who made all things, under the Father's direction, and upholds all things with His power. When you sleep Christ is with you. The movement of every drop of blood, the action of every organ, the origin of every thought — Christ is back of all that. Something like this the Psalmist had in mind when he said, "Whither shall I go from spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell,

behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." (Psalm 139:7-12). He is the inescapable Christ! Every man must say yes or no to Him! Every moment you face Him!

Christ is not only the Creator and the Sustainer but He is the only Saviour. It is Christ or Hell. Who can dodge that? There are no other saviours to turn to. No one else is The Door, no one else is The Way. No one else is The Life. No one else is The Light. No one else is The Shepherd of the sheep. No one else is "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." If all the glories, all the joys, all the beauties, all the pleasures, all the comforts are in one house, and there is only one door to the house, then you can't ignore that door. And Christ is that Door to God, to Heaven, to eternal life, to all true blessings, all eternal joys. And Christ is the only escape from Hell. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

And last, Christ the Creator, Sustainer, the Saviour will be the Judge. Before Him every knee shall bow and every tongue confess at the last judgment of the unsaved dead. Before Him poor, cringing sinners will be dragged out of Hell, will enter again into bodies brought out of the grave, to stand before Christ Jesus, before Christ the inescapable! YOU CANNOT DODGE CHRIST! What will you do with Him?

III. Jesus or Barabbas

God Himself set the stage for the trial of Jesus. He evidently caused Pilate to set Jesus and Barabbas one over against the other. If they released Barabbas they would crucify Jesus. If they released Jesus they would crucify Barabbas. It was a choice between God and Satan, between righteousness and unrighteousness, between light and darkness. Thus, whatever choice you make about Jesus, you make another choice, too. If the Jews accepted Christ, they rejected Barabbas. If they freed Barabbas, they condemned Jesus. So you, when you say no to Jesus say yes to Satan and sin and self. And if you honestly say yes to Christ, then you repent of your sin and turn your back on Hell and flee toward the heavenly city!

Every preacher who preaches Heaven ought to preach Hell, too. Every preacher who preaches faith ought to preach repentance. Every one who believes in a personal Christ come to save sinners should believe in a personal devil, set on damning souls. When you ask yourself the question, "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ?" you should remember you answer the question also of what you will do with Satan. If you are for one you are against the other. If you love one you hate the other. If you cling to one you despise the other. If you are saved you are not lost. If you are lost you are not saved. If you are not going to Heaven then you are going to Hell. If you are not forgiven then you are condemned. It is Christ or Barabbas!

Men sometimes pretend that it is purely in the realm of reason, without any moral guilt or decision, that they reject Christ. But that is not true. The prodigal son, "when he came to himself said, I will arise and go unto my father." Any human creature in the world

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'What Shall I Do Then with Jesus?'

(Continued from page two)

in his right mind, honestly wanting to do right, would run to Jesus Christ the first moment he ever heard that Christ loved him and died for him, and was willing to forgive all his sins! Isaiah 1:18 says, "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow. Though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool." God knows that every man who ever sits down at the council table, honestly to weigh the gain and loss, the right and the wrong, will instantly turn to God. On the grounds of pure reason every man, every woman, every child who ever lived would have turned to Christ the first moment they ever heard the truth.

This proves then that there are no good reasons for rejecting Christ. The reasons are always bad, always wicked, always come out of a wicked heart. If you are not saved, it is because of sin. There is a moral guilt, a proven rottenness in character in every one who does not turn to Christ. It is not only that you are a sinner by nature, but you are a sinner by choice, if you have not already run to Jesus for mercy and forgiveness.

In John 3:18-21 is a striking passage. Jesus said, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." Every person who reads this is condemned or not condemned. If you are not condemned it is because you have believed in Christ. If you are already condemned it is because you would not believe in Him, and the condemnation is because light had come into the world and you loved darkness rather than light because your deeds were evil.

For "everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." Every rejection of Christ is intentional. There is a motive back of it in every case. And in every case the motive is horribly wicked. That motive which keeps people away from God is A LOVE FOR SIN!

There are three heavy factors which every sinner must weigh and does weigh, when he faces Jesus Christ and decides what he shall do with Christ. First there is Satan, a personal devil. Everybody pretends to hate him, but every unsaved man goes on to do Satan's bidding, keeps Satan's crowd, does his business. Every man who says "no" to Christ says "yes" to the devil. Every man who says, "Lord Jesus, you cannot come into my heart. I will not let you rule my life," at the same time says to Satan, "Come, Satan, at least for a while I will stay with you and obey you. You may go home with me and harden my heart if you can. I hope to turn some day, before I get to Hell, but for the present I love your way better than God's way, and I want you as my master instead of Christ." For the Jews and for Pilate, when Jesus stood on trial before the governor, it was Jesus or Barabbas. And for every poor sinner in the world it is Christ or Satan. One will be lord of your life. Which one?

Again, there is not only a personal devil, but every man, when he faces Christ, has to decide on the sin question. Saved people still sin, but every person who is genuinely saved has had a heart-turning away from sin, a repentance, a choice for Christ and against sin. But every person who rejects Christ does it on the basis that he is not yet willing to give up sin. He may be unwilling to give up the sin of drink, the sin of adultery, or the dance, or the movies, or even bad companionship. How many young people go to Hell because their friends are unsaved! Or it may be simply the wicked pride of the heart, rebellion against God. But always, always, ALWAYS there is a choice for sin.

when there is a choice against Christ.

And the third of the trinity of evils is self. Satan, sin, self! Every man has to face them, every man does face them, when he faces Christ. "I want my way! I want to do as I please!" That is the cry of the human heart. We want no bosses, we want no instructions, we want no restraint. As a child I thought many times, "I will be glad when I get grown so I can do as I please." And people turn down Christ because they want to do as they please instead of as Christ pleases. As the child rebels against his father, as the criminal rebels against the government, as Satan rebelled against God in Heaven and became a fallen angel, so every poor wicked sinner who has not accepted Christ has rebelled, wanting his own way, living for self.

It is Jesus or Barabbas. And Barabbas here stands for Satan and sin and self. Oh, dear sinner friend, I beg you, do not deceive yourself. How wicked, how horrible is the sin that you choose, when you reject Christ! For wicked, inexcusable, indefensible reasons, guilty reasons, Hell-inspired reasons, you have rejected Christ thus far. Only out of a rotten heart of wickedness does any body turn down Christ.

Those who turn to Christ turn in their hearts away from Satan and sin and self. Those who reject Christ choose to follow Satan, choose to live in sin, choose to have their own selfish way instead of God's way.

What a dilemma Pilate faced that day, when he must release one man and kill the other. But every sinner in the world faces the same choice. Which will it be, dear sinner, Heaven or Hell? Christ or Satan? Righteousness or wickedness? Forgiveness, or eternal condemnation?

IV. Alternate Choices: What You Can Do with Jesus

Let us make this problem as plain, as simple as possible. You must do something with Jesus. Well, what can you do? There is a series of choices, all involved in one, when you decide what you will do with Jesus.

First, you must be for or against Him. Jesus said plainly, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30). And again in Luke 11:23 He said the same thing, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."

It is as simple as that; you must be for Jesus or against Him. America is now in a desperate war. You must be for America or against America. So in the matter of Christ no one can possibly be neutral. If you are not for Jesus you are against Him. If you do not gather together, then you scatter abroad. Sometimes lost men say, "Brother Rice, I am for the churches. I wouldn't want to live in a community without a church. I am glad the gospel is free." Yet if such men are unsaved, rejecting Christ, then all their lives are really given to tearing down that which they profess to admire. Their influence says, every day, "There is nothing to Christ and Christianity to be desired. I will not serve Him; I do not advise others to serve Him." No matter what men say with their lips, actually all who are not for Jesus Christ are against Him, and all who do not gather for Him tear down and scatter that which those of us who love Him try to build. "What you are talks so loud I cannot hear what you say." Oh, sinner, how can you be against Him? Will you face this question in your own heart? And this moment are you for Jesus Christ, for His will, for His way, for His people? Or are you against Him? Do you gather together for Christ or do you scatter the things He gathers? Decide today whether you will be for Him or against Him.

Second, everyone must either love Him or hate Him. Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." If you do not love Christ you hate Him; if you do not hold to Him you despise Him.

Someone says to me, "Why,

Brother Rice, everybody loves the Lord, do they not?" No, no! Those who have not taken Christ as Saviour have their secret and shameful reason — they do not love Him! In their hearts they hate Him and what He stands for!

Few men would admit that charge. But if Christ came to your community, if he lived and ministered there three years, pointing out your sins, demanding repentance, demanding whole-souled surrender to His will as He did in Palestine, then in your city, too, men would hate Him, would pick up stones to stone Him, would spit upon Him and eventually try to kill Him! Hidden in unregenerate hearts is this horrible sin; lost men hate Jesus Christ. They may not have been conscious of it, they may not have thought to hate Him, but it is there. And if the matter is pressed hard upon their consciences, if they come to great enlightenment; as did the Pharisees who scorned Jesus, then they too will come to open hate of a Christ they do not love and will not serve. You must either love Christ or hate Him. You must hold to Him or despise Him.

Now that the wicked sin of your heart is called to your attention, will you go on in hatred against Christ? Or will you love Him and surrender to Him today?

Third, you accept Him or reject Him. God loves you and has offered you salvation in Christ. John 1:12 says, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." You can't buy salvation. You accept it as a free gift of God, and the only way to accept salvation is to accept Christ the Saviour as your own Saviour. If you open your heart to Him, His blessed Spirit will come into your heart, will change you, will forgive you, will save you. You cannot buy salvation, but you can accept it. And so you do not deserve Christ as a Saviour but you may receive Him into your heart, by faith.

In Romans 6:23 we are told, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." All who go to Hell are simply taking their own wages, the wages of sin. But all who go to Heaven accept Heaven and eternal life as a free gift of God. Those who go to Hell buy their own tickets, but all who go to Heaven ride on a pass! You must accept Christ as your Saviour, or you must reject Him.

The other evening as I preached on this subject I held out a quarter to a little girl, and asked her to take it as a gift, to help me illustrate the sermon. She looked first with glad surprise and then with some shy embarrassment she held out her hand and took the twenty-five cent piece. Salvation is that easy, if you wholeheartedly are willing to accept Christ as your own Saviour. God loves you. Christ died for you. Your sins are paid for. Salvation is free just as soon as you receive Jesus Christ. Open your heart today and take Him, accept Him!

A greatly loved chorus by Harry Clarke says,

"Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus!"

Oh, may that be your prayer today! Receive Him, dear unsaved reader. Accept Him today as your own Saviour, your Lord, your Master, your hope of Heaven! "What shall I do then with Jesus?" You must accept Him or reject Him.

Fourth, you must crown Christ as Lord, or crucify Him. Halfway measures would not do for Pilate or for the Jews, and indifferent friendliness was not enough. Christ claimed whole-hearted allegiance as His due. He claimed to be the Son of God, the promised Messiah, the King of the Jews. Jews would have been willing to receive Him as a prophet, as a preacher. They did not want Him as a King who demanded repentance, demanded the utmost allegiance of loving, penitent hearts. For Christ it had to be the cross or the crown. And so today, dear friends, you are to decide whether you will crown or crucify Jesus.

Christ is really "prince of the kings of the earth" (Rev. 1:5). He will return to earth wearing many crowns, "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16). Pilate

knew that he was crucifying a king when he crucified Jesus.

Saul of Tarsus, when he was done with his rebellion, on his face before God, on the road to Damascus, cried out, "Lord, what would thou have me to do?" He accepted the kingship of Jesus! Doubting Thomas, when he put his fingers in the nail-prints in the Saviour's hand, and thrust his hand into Jesus' side, cried out "My Lord, and my God!" Christ will one day reign over all the earth, as king on David's throne at Jerusalem. Even now He sets with the Father on His throne. Meantime He demands the surrender, the homage, the honor due Him.

On the other hand, those who reject Christ take part in His crucifixion. In Hebrews 6: 4-6 we are told that some sinners, after great enlightenment and conviction, fall away from that conviction, and that they "crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Ah, that day when the howling mob surrounded Jesus crying out, "Crucify him! crucify him!" they spoke for all the sinners in the world! His blood is on our hands! Our sins nailed Him there! And all who are not willing to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord are deliberately rejecting Him and deliberately saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

Today, what will you do with Jesus? Will you crown Him as King and Lord in your heart, with devotion and love and surrender? Or will you refuse Him and hate Him, and be guilty of His crucifixion?

Fifth, you can confess Him or deny Him. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32, 33). And again Jesus said, "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels." (Luke 9: 26). So if you are for Jesus you should say so. If you love Him, you should publicly announce it.

Men who join the United States Army put on the uniform, they take the oath of allegiance, they are proud to wear the insignia of their organization. Lodge men wear the square and compass, the three links, or other marks of their brotherhood. When women marry they wear a wedding ring. College students put up pennants in their rooms, wear letters on their sweatshirts announcing what society, what fraternity or sorority they belong to, even what college they attend.

Shame, shame, on anybody who reads this and does not have the courage, the conviction, the manhood or womanhood, the actual honesty, to come out openly to confess Jesus as your own Saviour and Lord. Oh, today, take sides publicly! Let people know whether you are for Christ or the devil, whether Heaven or Hell is your future home, whether you seek the friendship of the saints of God or of the people of darkness and sin. Take sides! Either confess Christ or deny Him.

The thing is before you now, the answer to your question. You have to be for Jesus or against Him. You have to love Jesus or hate Him. You have to accept or reject Him. Oh, then, dear friend, do it today! In your heart say yes to Christ. Surrender your will, depend upon His mercy, and accept His pardon. And then, to make it sure, that you may have assurance in your own heart, that you may have influence over others, that you may prove your sincerity, I beg you, claim Christ today. Go tell your mother or your father today that you accept Christ as your Saviour.

Tell it to pastor, to husband or wife. How glad I will be if you will write me and say, "Brother Rice, today I want to claim Christ as my own Saviour. I will be for Him instead of against Him. I will love Him instead of hate Him. I will accept Him instead of reject Him. Today I claim Him as my Saviour, I surrender to Him as my Lord."

Pilate was a coward. He dallied with his duty. Knowing Christ was the Son of God, knowing He was innocent, he allowed the Jews to persuade him, and sent Jesus to the cross. Well, maybe you are a coward, too. Maybe you will not follow in this matter the urgings and promptings of conscience. Maybe you will ignore the teaching of

Sword Office and Book Room Holds Open House July 21

We want to invite all *The Sword of the Lord* readers of the Chicago area to come in and visit with us between 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 21 in the new quarters of *The Sword of the Lord* office and The Sword Book Room, at 145 North Hale Street in Wheaton. We will have short programs during the afternoon and evening, refreshments will be served, and there will be a special souvenir for each one who comes.

Mrs. G. Rice Nutting, sister of the editor, will be happy to meet you in the book room, and *The Sword of the Lord* workers will be glad to have you come into the office and get acquainted.

Remember the —

DATE: Tuesday, July 21, 2 p.m.

to 9 p.m.

PLACE: 145 N. Hale, Wheaton. We're expecting you.

your mother. It may be you will play the part of an ingrate, the part of a time-server, the part of a coward, afraid of the people, of a laugh or a sneer. But if you are honest, if you mean well, if you want to do right, I know that in your heart, today, you will decide for Christ, not only decide for Him, not only trust Him to forgive you and save you, but you will confess Him, will go on record for Him, will claim Him before men! Oh, what will you do with Jesus? I hope that now, before you go any further, you will confess Him. Why don't you get on your knees today and tell Him you will love Him and trust Him and then let somebody know your decision?

V. What You Do with Jesus Now Settles What He Will Do with You Later

Today I come as a friend, knocking at the heart's door of sinners. To some of you I am an unwelcome visitor. Someone who reads this gives it little thought. Perhaps you are like one man who said to me, "I don't want to be a Christian now and nobody can make me." That is correct. Nobody can make you be a Christian. You are an absolute dictator in the realm of your own heart. If you want Jesus you can have Him, but if you do not want Him then you will ignore every honest preacher who tries to keep you out of Hell. If you do not want Jesus, you will offend and drive away the blessed Holy Spirit who pleads with you today. If you do not want Jesus you may, like Pilate, ignore the pleadings of your wife, distressed about your soul. You may utterly disregard the prayers of a mother, the tears of a friend. You're the boss! No one in the world can settle this but you, and you can settle it exactly as you want to. You are inside the palace of your heart on the throne. Christ is at the door like a beggar, pleading, pleading to come in, to be your Saviour, to have His rightful place in your life. I say, you're the boss now; you have the last word now. Your decision is final. Nobody can make you be a Christian unless you want to be.

But I remind you that the scene will change one day. Now the question is, what will you do with the pleading Jesus. But one day it will

(Continued on page four)

"Each time I finish reading an issue of *The Sword of the Lord* I exclaim to myself, "Well, this is the best one yet. I just can't pass this one along to someone else for I want to read it over and over."

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'What Shall I Do Then with Jesus?'

(Continued from page three)

be, what will Jesus do with you!

In Revelation, chapter 20 we are told of a vision John saw. He said, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God."

And there, we learn, at the great white throne judgment of the unsaved dead, poor wicked sinners will be dragged out of Hell, their bodies will come out of the graves, and then they will bow the knee, then they will confess before God. Then they will be judged, every one according to his works, out of the things written in the record books of God. Then the question will not be "What shall I do then with Jesus?" The question will be with Jesus, "What shall I do with this poor, old, wicked sinner who has hardened his heart, rejected me, turned down every offer of mercy, and has gone to Hell?" And every such poor sinner will then be judged publicly for his works, and sent both soul and body into the lake of fire.

Yes, it is true that you are the

10th Anniversary

(Continued from page one)

bership reached beyond 1,600. The blessing of the Lord was upon pastor and people and they were used of God to win many hundreds of souls from every section in the city of Dallas.

After spending more than six years as pastor of the church, the Lord began to speak to Dr. Rice about leaving the pastorate and entering the work of a full-time evangelist. Dr. Rice was reluctant to leave the church and the people whom he dearly loved, but the Voice of the Lord was clear. Shortly after this time, the church building was burned to the ground and it became necessary for Dr. Rice to remain on the field until a new building had been erected, after which the call of God had to be answered. After seven and one-half years as pastor of the church, Dr. Rice entered the work which was dear to his heart and which had been greatly blessed of the Lord, making his headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois.

After praying much for several months about the matter, the present pastor arrived on the field to take over the work on March 17, 1940. Almost two and one-half years have elapsed since that time and the blessings of the Lord have rested mightily upon the work. The church is thoroughly organized and is occupying its place as one of the leading churches in Dallas, among the sound, pre-millennial churches.

In order to properly commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the church, the Board of Deacons of the Galilean Baptist Church, unanimously voted to invite the founder and former pastor of the church to hold a three-weeks revival meeting. The Lord has made it possible for Dr. Rice to come, and the meetings will begin, the Lord willing, Tuesday evening, July 21st. Meetings will be conducted each morning at 10:30 A. M., at which time the Bible Study will be on the theme: "The Secret of Success in Prayer," and each evening at 8:00 P.M. Dr. Rice will be speaking at all services and the present pastor of the church will be leading the singing.

Our people are enthusiastic in their anticipation of the blessings of the Lord upon these services. They are anxious to have the opportunity of further fellowship with the one, who under God, was the means of bringing the joy of salvation into their lives. Much advertising is being prepared and we are requesting the many friends of our church and the editor of this paper, to join us in intercessory prayer for a revival that will shake all Dallas with its power. Dallas is a city of churches, and a center of religion, but it is wicked and desperately in need of a Heaven-sent revival. Oh, that the fire might fall!

We want to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all the friends of the church and of its former pastor, to attend these special Anniversary Meetings. Perhaps a good many will want to come from other cities and even other states.

Revival Number —

(Continued from page one)

al Hour Broadcast, and seven fine chapel talks by Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College. These and many others are to appear from week to week.

We have received reports, usually letters from those saved themselves, of 180 conversions in the last 18 months (an average of 10 each month) through *The Sword of the Lord* through other literature published by the editor, all of which had been in *The Sword of the Lord* originally. For this we thank God, and dedicate ourselves anew to the winning of souls thru gospel literature as well as thru revival preaching and radio.

We believe souls will be saved through this issue. Will you see that an unsaved friend reads the sermon "What Must I Do Then with Jesus?" and urge him to be saved today and sign the decision form and publicly claim Christ?

If you want other copies of this issue to give among your unsaved friends you may have them at 2 cents each as long as they last. Help us get out this message to the unsaved.

Many will read this who should subscribe for *The Sword of the Lord*. The subscription price is \$1.00 a year, 52 issues, in the U.S. or to our armed forces, \$1.50 a year in Canada. In no other paper or magazine can you get weekly full length evangelistic sermons by the best soul-winners and Bible teachers in America. And the price

I am not bandying facts and figures for entertainment. I am trying to keep you out of Hell. And oh, then, since I am honest and frank with you, will you be honest with yourself? Will you ask yourself the question that Pilate asked that day over 1900 years ago? Will you in your own heart face it honestly, ask the question and answer it? Pilate said, "What shall I do then with Jesus, which is called Christ?" Ask yourself the same question. And then, oh, I beg you, this very moment answer it. Say yes to Jesus! Tell Him if He wants you He may have you today. Tell Him you love Him so little, but if He will put love in your heart for Him you will be glad. Tell him that if He has salvation and if it is free, and if it is for poor sinners, as He has promised that it is, that you want it, want it today. Choose today for Jesus instead of against Him! Love Him instead of hating Him. Accept Him now as your Saviour, instead of rejecting Him. Oh, crown Him as Lord of your life! Give Him first place. Say like the broken Saul of Tarsus kneeling on the Damascus road, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Then confess Him. Claim Him! Make a break today with the old life and with Satan and let it be known that you have taken Christ as your own Saviour and Lord.

What will you do with Jesus? Write it down today! If you will honestly trust Christ to save you, if you will, by God's grace, be for Him instead of against Him, if you will depend upon Him to forgive your sins and save you and give you everlasting life, and if you are willing to confess Him today, will you sign this decision slip and send it to me, or copy it out in a letter, or write me in your own words and tell me so today?

Here Is What I Will Do with Jesus
Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, *The Sword of the Lord*
145 North Hale Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have just read the sermon, "What Shall I Do Then with Jesus?" I know I am a poor sinner, and I know I must do something with Jesus. So here and now I decide for Christ instead of against Him. I will trust Him to forgive me and save me. I will accept Him as my own Saviour. I will try to give Him the place of king in my life. And I here and now claim Him as my own personal Saviour! By His grace I will seek to live for Him.

Signed _____

Address _____

for a strong weekly is remarkably little. Do it today! Send your dollar and address to 145 North Hale St., Wheaton, Illinois.

May we suggest that Christians pray, and wherever possible plan for great united revival campaigns in special meeting places, that hundreds of souls, who never attend the church buildings, may be saved.

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